

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

SCCT-01 IO-10 /108 W

----- 053000

R 291700Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4323

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 1925

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT EAGR EC

SUBJ: AGRARIAN REFORM

1. THE MUCH AWAITED MASS MEETING OF FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN GUAYAQUIL ON SUNDAY, DEC 28, DID NOT TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF A NOTICE PUT OUT BY GOVERNOR OF GUAYAS PROVINCE PROHIBITING THE PLANNED DEMONSTRATION. REASON GIVEN BY GOVERNOR WAS INFORMATION RECEIVED THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS TO BE TURNED INTO NON-PEACEFUL TERRORISTIC ACTIVITY. IT WAS REPORTED TO US THAT THERE WERE ELEMENTS OF TRUTH TO THIS.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL, THE MEETING ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR THE COLISEUM, WAS DIVERTED TO THE STREET AREA NEAR THE SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING BY THE PCE WHICH HOPED THAT THE MEETING COULD BE CONTAINED AND PEACEFUL. PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA WAS INVITED TO ATTEND AND ACCEPTED. SINCE SUCH TYPES OF STREET DEMONSTRATIONS ARE UNLAWFUL IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER ANY TYPE OF OFFICIAL APPROVAL WAS EVER OBTAINED OR WHETHER

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LOCAL OFFICIALS JUST CLOSED THEIR EYES TO THE LARGE QUARTER-

PAGE ADS APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPERS ON THE MEETING. IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WAS FINANCING THE ORIGINAL MEETING THROUGH MONIES SECRETLY DISBURSED THROUGH IERAC. SINCE ACTING GOVERNOR ADN PRESIDENT WERE TO ATTEND IT IS ASSUMED SOME SORT OF APPROVAL WAS OBTAINED.

3. THE CANCELLATION OF THE CAMPESINO GATHERING APPARENTLY CAUSED NO WAVES OF PROTEST, AT LEAST NOT YET. THE LABOR UNIONS WERE UNITED IN FAVOR OF THE DEMONSTRATION IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE PCE WAS THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZER. WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 25 OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM ACT ONLY A FEW DAYS OFF, I ENVISAGE MORE AND MORE OPEN CONFLICTS BETWEEN LANDOWNERS AND THE UNLANDED PEASANTRY WHO WILL TRY SQUATTING ON CHOICE LAND PARCELS IN HOPES THAT IERAC WILL SANCTIFY THEIR ACTIONS AND GIVE THEM THE LAND.

4. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT A CAMPESINO COMITE WILL TRAVEL TO QUITO THIS WEEK TO SEE THE PRESIDENT TO GET HIS BLESSING FOR A MEETING ON JAN 11 WHICH HE WILL BE ASKED TO ATTEND.
BISHTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, FARMS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, LAND REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GUAYAQ01925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-0148
From: GUAYAQUIL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975128/aaaaahan.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGRARIAN REFORM
TAGS: PINS, PINT, EAGR, EC
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006